(c) No EPZ/SEZ has been approved or established in the State of Jharkhand so far.

(d) to (f) Government had announced a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) scheme in April 2000. As per the policy, the Central Government itself will not to set up any new SEZs. The scheme envisages setting up of SEZ in the public, private, joint sectors or by the State Governments. Further, the existing Export Processing Zones could also be converted into Special Economic Zones. In accordance with the above policy, 8 existing Export Processing Zones located at Santa Cruz (Maharashtra), Cochin (Kerala). Kandia and Surat (Gujarat), Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), Falta (West Bengal) and Noida (Uttar Pradesh) have been converted into SEZs.

Based on detailed project reports submitted by the State Govemnrwnts/private promoters. 3 new SEZs have been formally approved. In addition, 'in principle' approval has been granted for setting up of 14 new SEZs. Since the SEZs have been approved for establishment in the private/joint sector/by the State Governments, it is not possible to indicate a time frame for ope rationalization of the Zones.

Imports of Cart, Fruits and Vegetables etc.

1079. SHRIRAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been steep increase in the imports of cars, fruits, vegetables, milk and milk products during 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; arid

(c) its impact on domestic manufacturers and producers of these items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.There has been increase in the imports of cars, fruits, vegetables, milk and milk products during 2002 as can be seen from data on imports contained in the publication Monthly Statistics of Foreign Trade of India published by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S), which is available in the library of Parliament In the fruits and vegetable

segment higher import is largely due to cashew nuts, which is mainly imported for processing and re-export. The growth in import of milk and milk products is largely accounted for by butter oil.

Import of these items is permissible as per Exim Policy and Procedures laid down in the Handbook of Procedure.The quantitative restrictions, which were earlier maintained on balance of payment grounds, have been removed in line with the economic liberalization policy and also in accordance with the country's commitment to multilateral trading regime.

Tea Export

1080. SHRIMATI N.R DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of tea exported during the last three years year-wise; and

(b) the details of steps being taken to increase export of tea to Russia?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY {SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) The details of export of tea in quantity terms during the last three years year-wise is given below:

Period	Quantity (Million Kgs.)
2000	206.82
2001	182.59
2002	193.03*

*Estimated and subject to revision

(b) Government has taken various steps to improve and sustain the export of tea to major tea importing countries including Russia and the Tea Board is also Implementing a medium term export strategy for the same. The steps taken include providing financial incentives to the exporters for meeting part of the cost of handling packaging transport/ freight charges, implementing schemes for quality upgradation of tea, programmes on building consumer awareness of speciality Indian teas in select markets, participation in major trade fairs/exhibitions abroad, media